

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KATHMA 03795 260317Z

11

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-02 IO-10 /088 W
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R 260310Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2699

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USLO PEKING

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KATHMANDU 3795

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, NP

SUBJ: SEVEN NEWSPAPERS BANNED UNDER NEW PRESS
AND PUBLICATION ACT

REF: KATHMANDU 3622

1. GON ANNOUNCED AUGUST 23 THE CLOSURE OF THREE DAILY AND FOUR WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS UNDER THE RECENTLY PROMULGATED PRESS AND PUBLICATION ACT. THE NEWSPAPERS WERE CITED FOR VIOLATING CLAUSE 1(A) OF SECTION 22 WHICH STATES, "ANY PUBLICATION WHICH AFFECTS ADVERSELY THE NATIONAL INTEREST, SECURITY OR PUBLIC WELFARE, LAW AND ORDER, OR THE PARTYLESS DEMOCRATIC PANCHAYAT SYSTEM, " WILL BE BANNED IMMEDIATELY. THE PAPERS INVOLVED ARE THE PRO-INDIAN DAILIES NEPAL TIMES, DAINIK NEPAL, NABIN KHABAR, AND THE WEEKLIES SAMIKSHA (PRO-SOVIET), MATRIBHUMI (PRO-CHINESE), RASTRAPUKAR (PRO-NEPALI CONGRESS) AND NAYA SANDESH (PRO WESTER.)

2. COMMENT: BY TAKING A CAREFULLY EVENHANDED APPROACH IN CLOSING THESE PAPERS, THE GON HAS PROTECTED ITSELF FROM
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PAGE 02 KATHMA 03795 260317Z

COMPLAINTS OF PARTIALITY WHILE ELIMINATING PUBLICATIONS WHICH

HAVE OCCASIONALLY EMBARRASSED IT. USE OF SECTION 22 RATHER THAN SECTION 23, WHICH PROHIBITS FOREIGN ASSISTANCE TO ANY PUBLICATION WITHOUT PRIOR GOVERNMENT APPROVAL, TO JUSTIFY BANNING THE PAPERS IS A FURTHER INDICATION OF THE GON'S DESIRE NOT TO ANTAGONIZE THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST AID DONORS. SINCE SOME OF THE PAPERS CLOSED ALSO RAN PRESSES WHICH PRODUCED ADDITIONAL PUBLICATIONS, OTHER PAPERS MAY, IN EFFECT, ALSO CEASE TO APPEAR. CARGO

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